

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 228

By Sargent

A RESOLUTION to recognize Thomas “Gary” Blalack on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Thomas “Gary” Blalack is one such estimable person, who has served in the employment of GlaxoSmithKline for thirty-three years, and will soon retire from his position as director as state government affairs; and

WHEREAS, he attended Christian Brothers High School in Memphis and matriculated to Memphis State University, where he graduated with honors in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Gary Blalack started his career with Glaxo Inc. as a sales representative in June 1982, following in the footsteps of his father; he relished the role of salesman of life-changing and life-saving pharmaceuticals to hundreds of physicians across the region; and

WHEREAS, seeking new challenges, Mr. Blalack made the change from promoting pharmaceuticals to doctors to promoting legislation to lawmakers in November 1986, by joining the state government affairs team of Glaxo Inc., covering numerous states in the Southeastern region of the nation; and

WHEREAS, Gary Blalack managed to excel and accomplish much for his company through any number of name changes, mergers, and acquisitions, whether it be Glaxo Inc., GlaxoWellcome, or GlaxoSmithKline, winning numerous awards and recognitions from the company along the way; and

WHEREAS, Gary Blalack is known for his gift of gab and his vast knowledge of the industry; he has represented the company with distinction with various national, regional, and state organizations such as the Southern Legislative Conference, Council of State

Governments, State Legislative Leaders Foundation, National Black Caucus of State Legislators, National Governors Association, and National Conference of State Legislatures; and

WHEREAS, a true servant to the industry, Mr. Blalack has served in numerous leadership roles with the Taskforce of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, including the coveted spots of chairman and vice chairman in multiple states, helping to guide the vision of that organization into action; and

WHEREAS, the godfather of the pharmaceutical state lobbyists, Gary Blalack has educated and schooled a variety of young and old lobbyists in the many intricacies of healthcare issues, from OBRA '90 to Medicaid managed care, to the Ryan White ADAP program, to immunizations, to a variety of disease-specific patient advocacy programs; and

WHEREAS, he is a dedicated family man, and he and his wife, Kathy, who reside in Franklin, are blessed with the love of their children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Gary Blalack has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Thomas "Gary" Blalack our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.